

Library Advisory Commission Meeting February 27, 2017

Action – Approve letter in support of a bill introduced in the California State Senate. SCA 3 by Senator Bill Dodd seeks to lower the local vote threshold for library construction bonds from the current two-thirds vote to 55%.

Text of letter from LAC Chairperson on behalf of the LAC:

February 27, 2017

Dear Honorable _____,

The Oakland Public Library Advisory Commission of the City of Oakland supports SCA 3. The measure seeks to lower the local vote threshold for library construction bonds from the current two-thirds vote to 55%.

The Oakland Public Library (OPL) provides services to the community from facilities distributed throughout the City of Oakland, including the Main Library, 16 branches, the African American Museum and Library and the Tool Lending Library. In the past year alone, OPL has organized job fairs for youth and adults, computer training sessions, health & wellness programs, local author talks, science and arts activities, and a very popular forum on discussing race and racism with children. The community of Oakland looks to OPL as a resource not only for lending materials, but in tackling real-world issues: signing up for health care, applying for jobs, navigating social services, accessing legal services, preparing tax returns, and – for children and teens – supplying snacks and meals.

The need for investment in OPL’s facilities was documented in its Master Facilities Plan, 2006, and \$423 million in unfunded requests for the Library department was documented in the City of Oakland’s 2015-20 Capital Improvement Program (CIP). OPL will benefit from passage of a City of Oakland infrastructure bond, Measure KK passed in November 2016, however the \$15 million intended for libraries is a small fraction of the needs identified.

OPL provides vital services to our community and funding to support improvements to our facilities are necessary. SCA 3 will give our local community the tools and authority to decide if they would like to levy a library bond for new construction, renovation, or expansion by a 55% vote.

Letters will be sent to each of the following:

Senate Governance and Finance Committee – Hearing: March 29, 2017

The Honorable Mike McGuire, Chair
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 5061
Sacramento, CA. 95814
Fax: (916) 651-4902

(D-Healdsburg)

Note: Co-author of SCA 3

The Honorable Janet Nguyen, Vice Chair (R-Garden Grove)
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 3048
Sacramento, CA. 95814
Fax: (916) 651-4934

The Honorable Jim Beall (D-San Jose)
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 2082
Sacramento, CA. 95814
Fax: (916) 651-4915

The Honorable Ed Hernandez (D-West Covina)
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 2080
Sacramento, CA. 95814
Fax: (916) 651-4922

The Honorable Bob Hertzberg (D-Van Nuys)
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 4038
Sacramento, CA. 95814
Fax: (916) 651-4918

The Honorable Ricardo Lara (D-Bell Gardens)
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 5050
Sacramento, CA. 95814
Fax: (916) 651-4933

The Honorable John Moorlach (R-Costa Mesa)
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 2048
Sacramento, CA. 95814
Fax: (916) 651-4937

And SCA 3 author:

The Honorable Bill Dodd (D-Napa)
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 5064
Sacramento, CA. 95814
Fax: (916) 651-4903